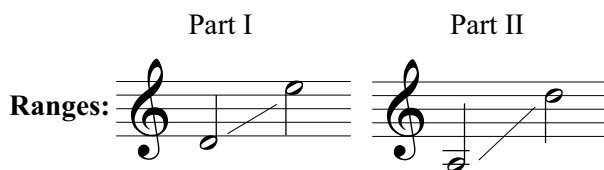


About the Arranger



Laura Farnell is the head choral director at Boles Junior High School in Arlington, Texas, where she has taught since the year 2000. Under her direction, the choral program has grown to more than 230 seventh and eighth grade students. Her choirs have earned numerous awards. In 2004, she received an Excellence in Education Award as the Arlington Independent School District's outstanding junior high teacher of the year.

After graduating *Summa Cum Laude* from Baylor University with her Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music (with a piano emphasis), Laura taught elementary music in Mansfield, Texas for two years. She has served as the middle-school vocal division secretary for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) and is also a member in the Texas Choral Directors Association. Laura is active as an accompanist and clinician. She especially enjoys composing and arranging for middle school groups, and has publications with Alliance, Shawnee Press, Hal Leonard, Heritage, Southern Music, and Neil A. Kjos Music Company. She and her husband, Russell, are members of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth and reside in Arlington, Texas.



Shenandoah

Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, you rollin' river.
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you.
Away, we're bound away, 'cross the wide Missouri.

'Tis seven long years since last I saw you,
Away you rollin' river,
'Tis seven long years since last I saw you.
Away, we're bound away, 'cross the wide Missouri.

Farewell my love, I'm bound to leave you,
Away, you rollin' river.
Farewell my love, I'm bound to leave you.
Away, we're bound away, 'cross the wide Missouri.

About the Music

While “Shenandoah” is one of America’s most well-known folk songs, its origins and exact meaning remain uncertain. The Native American word “Shenandoah” means “daughter of the stars,” and the Shenandoah river and river valley in Virginia bear this name. Most sources cite the original tune as a sea shanty, a song with a chorus sung by sailors while they worked on their ships. The lyrics, or words, of this piece differ among its many versions, and interpretations of these lyrics vary, as well. In one common interpretation, the lyrics refer to a sailor longing for the Shenandoah River and valley. In another interpretation, the words tell the story of a Missouri river trader who falls in love with the daughter of Native American Chief Shenandoah and courts her for seven years. No one is exactly sure when “Shenandoah” was composed, but by the end of the nineteenth century, this song was widely known and loved, both on land and sea. The broad arch of its melody and the timeless appeal of its lyrics have secured its place in history as one of America’s best-loved folk songs.

Laura Farnell